

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
SPMT 480-004 Sport Diplomacy
3 Credits, Fall 2019
Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 PM

Faculty

Name: Soolmaz Abooali

Office hours: By Appointment

Classroom Location: Thompson Hall L014

Office Location: Sport Management Office on Fairfax Campus

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Prerequisites:

At least one SPMT or CONF course recommended

University Catalog Course Description:

This course is designed to allow students to explore a different yet significant side of sports – sports as a public diplomacy tool. ‘Sport Diplomacy’ has been used to foster understanding and collaboration amongst individuals and states, even in times of conflict, as well as to connect people across cultures, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic backgrounds. The course will offer a comprehensive understanding of this aspect of sport.

Course Overview:

This course is designed to equip students with a unique and powerful understanding of how sports – a popular phenomenon across time and culture - can be used as a public diplomacy tool. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which sport is used to bring together people and states. They will study the interrelations of conflict, sport, and diplomacy in order to gain a foundational understanding of what is ‘sport diplomacy.’ Subsequently, students will trace various sport diplomacy initiatives across history, while learning to apply a critical lens to the topic, one that will be utilized to develop their own theories on the matter. Throughout the semester, students will participate in a broad range of activities: one final paper, participating in class discussions, debates, role-play, and an online component. The class will also include an potential opportunity for students to publish their final papers as part of an edited book with the instructor. Throughout the scope of this course, students will be able to strengthen and gain key skills in research, critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork.

Learner Outcomes:

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Explain what is sport and diplomacy and how they inter-relate
2. Understand the functions, complexities, and limitations of sport diplomacy
3. Gain a basic understanding of theoretical underpinnings of sport diplomacy

4. Develop effective theories that explain how sport can be effectively utilized to impact relations
5. Potential opportunity to publish original work

Course Delivery:

Classes will be conducted face to face in the classroom; one (1) hour per week must be conducted online via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. To log in to the Blackboard course site, students will use their Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password.

Honor Code:

George Mason shares in the tradition of an honor system that has existed in Virginia since 1842. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Students are responsible, therefore, for understanding the code's provisions. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute Honor Code violations. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee. Any student who has knowledge of, but does not report, a violation may be accused of lying under the Honor Code. With this in mind, all students in this course are held to the strictest standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.

Instructor Expectations:

1. **All assigned readings for each class is to be completed prior to coming to class.**
2. All written and online assignments must be submitted on time. No exceptions.
3. Regular attendance and active participation in discussions are expected. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain class materials from sources other than the instructor, and catch up on the readings.
4. Students will arrive to class on time.
5. Students must abide by the Honor Code, guided by the spirit of academic integrity.
6. Texting, making phone calls, perusing social media during class is not allowed.

Evaluation:

You are expected to actively participate in class discussion and fulfill assignments. Assignments must be turned in by the specified due date or **no credit will be given**. Only students with emergencies, documented medical excuses, or University sponsored functions (*approved by the professor in advance*) will be considered for exception. Please contact the professor for individual clarifications. **All written assignments must be typed and follow APA guidelines.**

Required Texts:

- Esherick, C., Baker, R.E., Jackson, S., & Sam, M. (Eds.). (2017). *Case studies in sport diplomacy*. West Virginia University: Fit Publishing.

Requirements	% of Grade
<p>Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly and actively participate in face to face lectures, discussions, and online reflections of weekly readings.</p>	25%
<p>Online Assignments: This course has a 1-hour online component. Each week, you will complete an online assignment that will be due at the start of the next class. For example, you may have to review a video, an article, or a chapter and write a 1-2 page short paper as the deliverable. Instructions will be provided on Blackboard.</p> <p>Online Assignments will be used as discussion topics for the start of each class. They will be graded on <i>successful analysis</i> as specified in instructions on Blackboard and <i>timely submission</i>.</p>	25%
<p>Final Paper: Prepare a 7-10 page final paper that proposes your OWN theory of sport diplomacy. Papers should have the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • double-spaced, size 12 font, Times New Roman • use proper English, correct spelling and format, and APA citation • organized content throughout the paper • incorporate class materials/supplemental readings to support the basis of your theory <p>All students are required to submit a rough draft halfway through the semester. A rubric for rough draft and final draft will be provided to you.</p>	35%
<p>Presentation: Each student will present his/her proposed theory of sport diplomacy (5 minutes) in front of a panel of judges. Rubric will be provided to you.</p>	15%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A = 94-100	B- = 80-83	D = 60-69
A- = 90-93	C+ = 78-79	F = 0-59
B+ = 88-89	C = 74-77	
B = 84-87	C- = 70-73	

COURSE SCHEDULE:

*Other than the specified chapters from our class text, readings are available for you via Blackboard.

Class structure:

1. Online assignment and class discussion
2. Class lecture and/or activity
3. 1-min paper

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Date	Topic	Readings to complete for next class
Week 1 8/27	Introductions Syllabus Overview 1-min paper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sport Diplomacy: A Review of How Sports Can Be Used to Improve International Relationships, Chapter 1, Esherick et al. 2. Sport and Diplomacy: An introduction 3. The Dynamics of Conflict <p><i>Online Assignment</i></p>
Week 2 9/3	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 1 readings 1-min paper <u><i>September 5 Welcome Week Event The Pilot House 4pm</i></u> <i>Located behind Hampton Roads dormitory 4-6:00pm</i> <u><i>September 9 Sport Psychology Symposium 1204 Merten Hall</i></u> <i>6:30pm-8:30pm</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sport Diplomacy: A Timeline 2. The United States Government’s Role in Sport Diplomacy, Chapter 2, Esherick et al. <p><i>Online Assignment</i></p>
Week 3 9/10	Discussion of online assignment	

	Discussion of Week 2 readings 1-min paper	1. Sport for Hope in Haiti: Disaster Diplomacy or Disaster Capitalism? Chapter 5, Esherick et al. <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 4 9/17	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 3 readings 1-min paper	1. Sport and Diplomacy: A Global Diplomacy Framework <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 5 9/24	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 4 readings 1-min paper <i>GMU Day at Nats Park</i> <i>September 27th</i> <i>Panel 5:30pm Nats executives</i> <i>Game 7:05pm</i>	1. The African Footballer as Visual Object and Figure of Success: Didier Drogba and Social Meaning <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 6 10/1	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 5 readings 1-min paper	1. Putin and the 2014 Sochi Olympics: Russia's Authoritarian Sports Diplomacy, Chapter 7, Esherick et al. 2. Building Stadiums, Building Bridges: Geopolitical Strategy in China, Chapter 8, Esherick et al. <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 7		

10/8	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 6 readings 1-min paper	DUE: Rough Draft of Final Paper 1. Sport Diplomacy between the United States and Iran <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 8 10/15	<i>NO CLASS - Tuesday classes do not meet this week</i>	
Week 9 10/22	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 7 readings 1-min paper	1. Sport, Diplomacy, and the Role of an Athlete as Ambassador <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 10 10/29	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 9 readings 1-min paper	1. Weaponization of Sports: The Battle for World Influence through Sporting Success <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 11 11/5	<i>MOVIE DAY (No electronic devices allowed during movie time)</i>	1. Afghanistan and India's Cricket Diplomacy <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 12 11/12	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 11 readings 1-min paper	1. Diplomats in Track Suits: The Role of Sports in the Foreign Policy of the German Democratic Republic <i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 13 11/19		1. Work on final Paper!

	Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 12 readings 1-min paper	<i>Online Assignment</i>
Week 14 11/26	DUE: Final Paper Discussion of online assignment Discussion of Week 13 readings 1-min paper	Prepare for your presentation! <i>Online Assignment</i>
11/27-12/1	<i>THANKSGIVING</i>	
Week 15 12/3	<i>LAST DAY OF CLASS</i> Presentations Party	

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>

- For information on student support resources on campus, see

<https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>

Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions at all times. For additional information on student policies and procedures, please review the following link: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.